

The Rural toolkit in a nutshell

**European Leader Congress
18-19 December 2023**

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Background

Policy framework: the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas (LTVRA) and the revitalization of rural areas

Policy need: local actors in rural areas - with limited administrative capacity - encounter challenges in finding, understanding, using and combining EU funding opportunities Support to **place-based policy in rural areas**

Target: local authorities and other stakeholders in rural areas (municipalities, local action groups, smart villages, start-up villages, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, etc.)

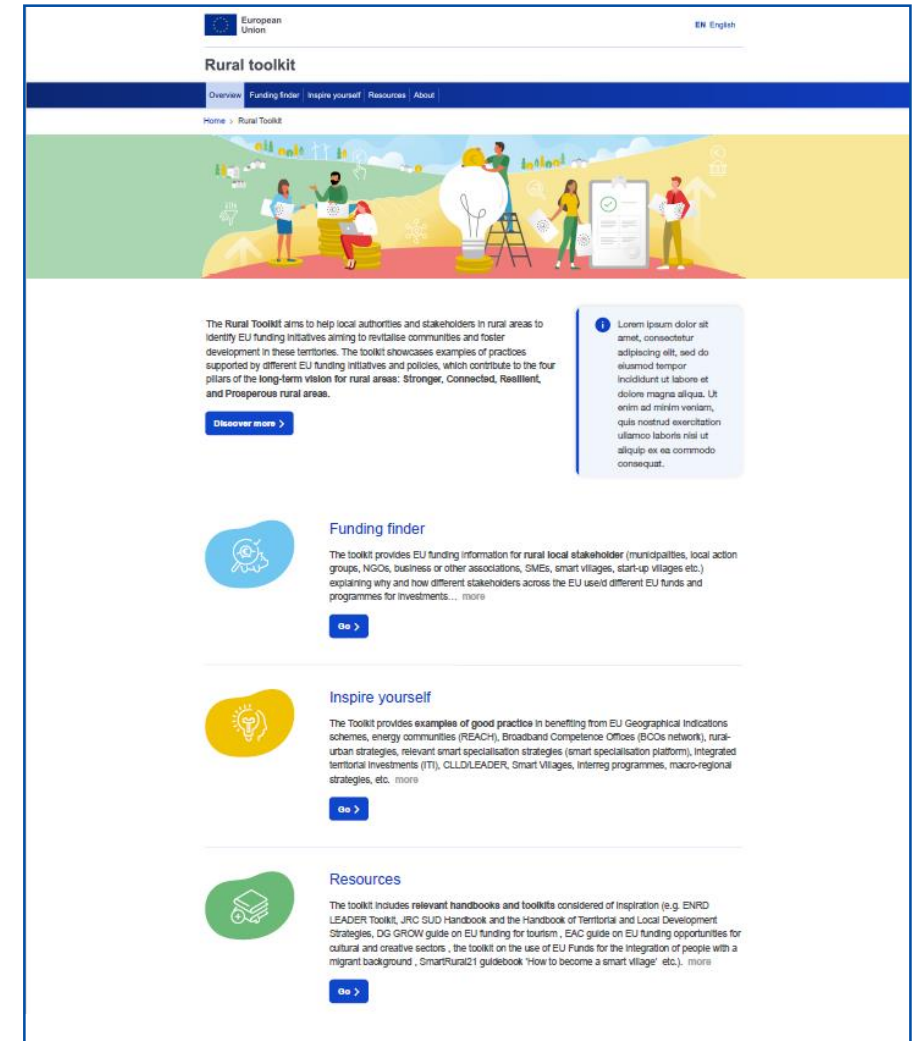
Focus: funding opportunities, programmes initiatives by all relevant DGs and agencies relevant for rural context

Main info

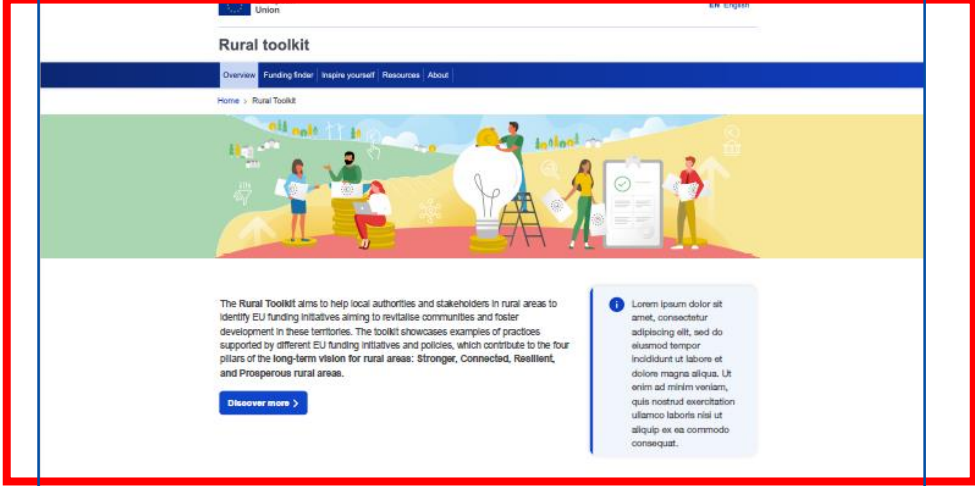
The Rural toolkit is an **online dashboard** of funding opportunities for rural development

Hosted under the **Rural Vision platform** (together with the Rural Observatory)

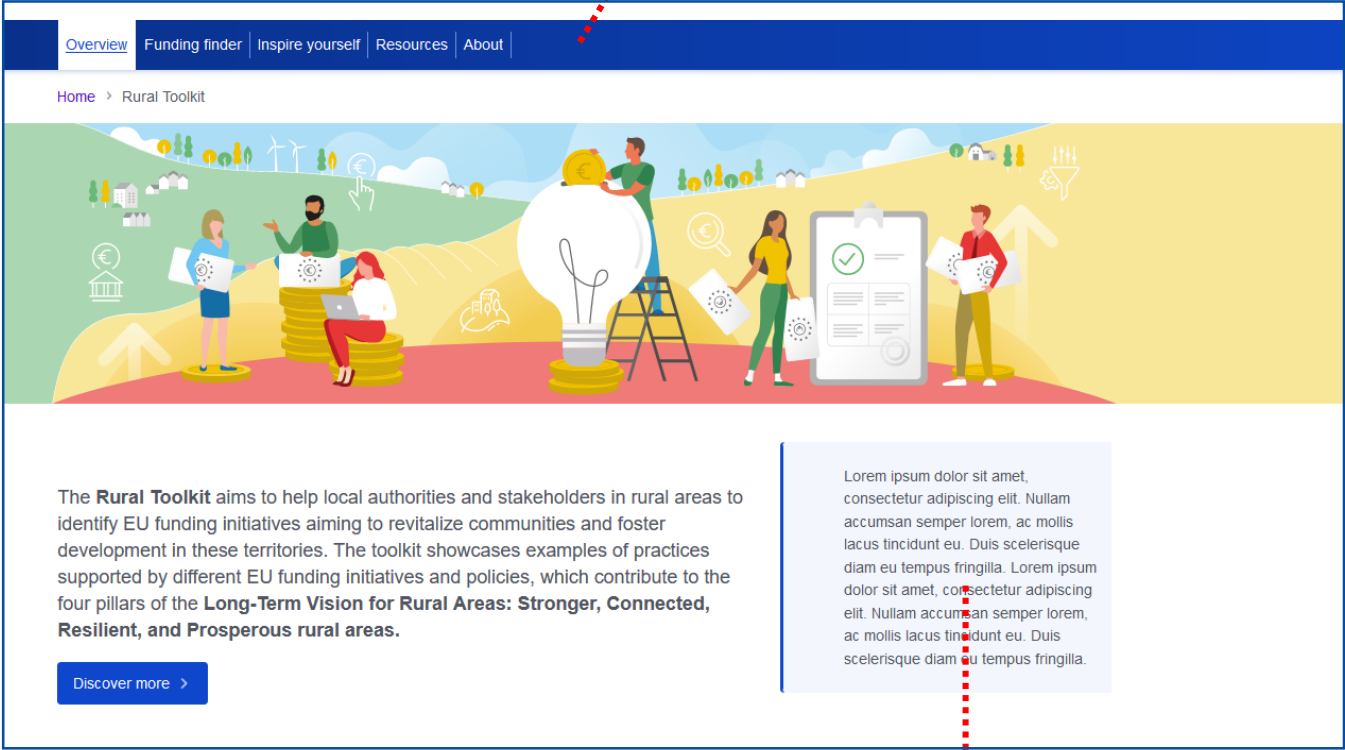
- Multi-stakeholder validation: June 2023
- Second multi-stakeholder validation: Oct 23
- Final version: December 2023
- Official launch: February 2024 (date TBC)



Where it will be hosted: <https://rural-vision.europa.eu/action-plan/cross-cutting/toolkit>



There will be a Q&A and glossary section



Explanatory and promotional video




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The Rural Toolkit aims to help local authorities and stakeholders in rural areas to identify EU funding initiatives aiming to revitalise communities and foster development in these territories. The toolkit showcases examples of practices supported by different EU funding initiatives and policies, which contribute to the four pillars of the long-term vision for rural areas: Stronger, Connected, Resilient, and Prosperous rural areas.

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Funding finder

The toolkit provides EU funding information for rural local stakeholder (municipalities, local action groups, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, smart villages, start-up villages etc.) explaining why and how different stakeholders across the EU used different EU funds and programmes for investments... [more](#)

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Inspire yourself

The Toolkit provides examples of good practice in benefiting from EU Geographical Indications schemes, energy communities (REACH), Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs network), rural-urban strategies, relevant smart specialisation strategies (smart specialisation platform), Integrated territorial investments (ITI), CLLD/LEADER, Smart Villages, Interreg programmes, macro-regional strategies, etc. [more](#)


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Resources

The toolkit includes relevant handbooks and toolkits considered of inspiration (e.g. ENRD LEADER toolkit, JRC GUD Handbook and the Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies, DG GROW guide on EU funding for tourism, EAC guide on EU funding opportunities for cultural and creative sectors, the toolkit on the use of EU Funds for the integration of people with a migrant background, SmartRural21 guidebook 'how to become a smart village' etc.). [more](#)


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About



Why a funding guide for rural areas?

While not explicitly designed for rural development, numerous EU funding programs and initiatives can play a significant role in revitalising and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. However, identifying the **right source of funding or support** and how to make the best use of it can be challenging.

The Rural toolkit aims to facilitate local institutions, businesses, associations and individuals in rural areas to navigate the diverse EU funding and support options, and to take full advantage of them.




How is the Rural toolkit helpful?

The toolkit provides a **unique entry point to all existing initiatives**, with comprehensive information on available resources, and explains why these are relevant for rural areas.

Practical examples featured on the platform encourage knowledge sharing and peer learning among rural communities. The Get inspired section offers **insights on successful initiatives** implemented in rural areas across the EU, and **on how to combine EU funds** effectively to maximise their impact and **address specific local needs**.

Within the toolkit, users will find a range of valuable resources including **handbooks and guidance on EU funding opportunities**. These resources equip users and applicants with the knowledge and tools needed to address the unique challenges facing rural areas, with an effective, integrated and place-based approach.



What funding opportunities are available?

The toolkit offers a gateway to various EU Funding and Financing initiatives, categorised into 3 main groups:

Direct funding	Open +
Indirect and shared funding	Open +
Financial instruments	Open +

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Get inspired

EU funds and support mechanisms have already been implemented successfully in rural contexts across the European Union. Explore a diverse range of **practical examples, case studies** and **inspiring stories**, and gain insights into **effective approaches** and interventions.

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Resources

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Funding finder

Financing opportunities (28)

Tailor your search

What kind of rural stakeholder are you? [Close](#)

Please select only one option

- Academic institution
- Association of civil society
- Business/SME (including farmer)
- Cooperative
- Energy community
- Individual citizen
- Local Action Group
- Local authority/Public entity
- NGO

What type of activities are you looking to fund? [Open +](#)

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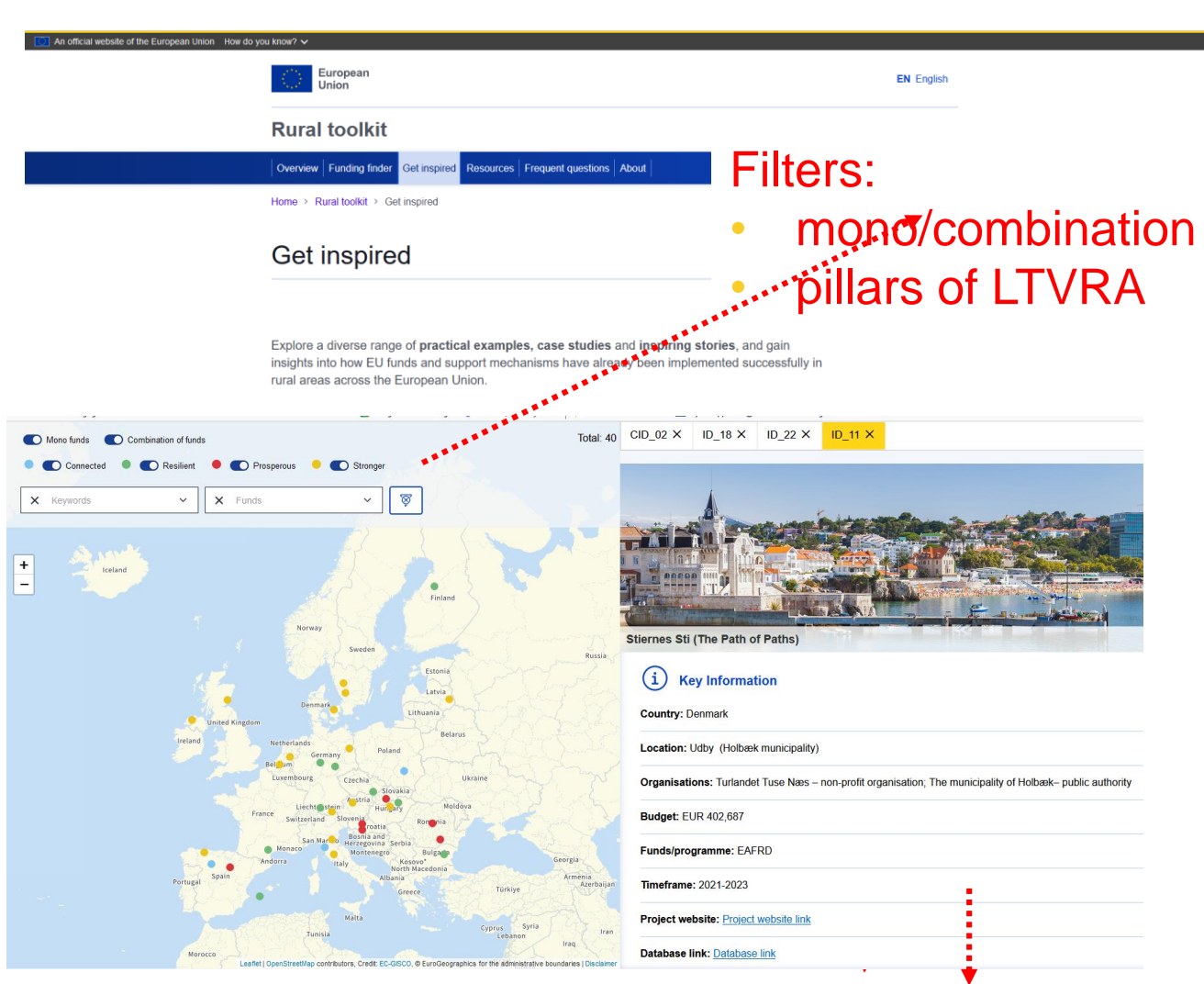
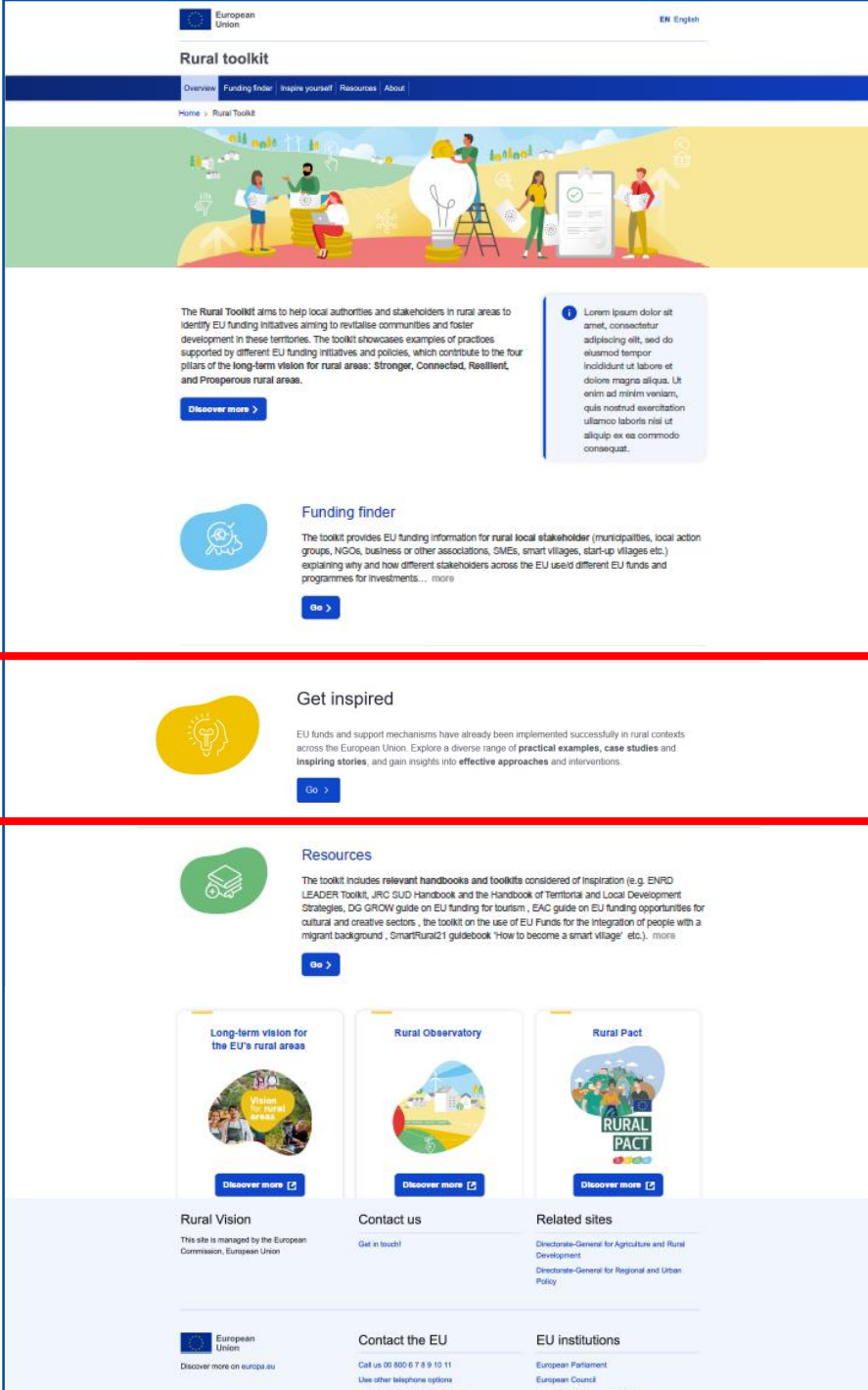
Which type of support are you looking for? [Open +](#)

EU level initiatives to which you can apply directly

EIT	SMP - SME Pillar	RECAH
CERV	LIFE	SMP - EUROCLUSTERS
Horizon Europe Cluster 2	5G SC	b-solutions
EUTeens4Green	JTP GROUNDWORK and PEERS	CREA
EUTeens4Green	JTP GROUNDWORK and PEERS	CREA

EU initiatives to which you can apply via your National/Regional authority

European Solidarity Corps	AMIF	Erasmus+
JTF	EMFAF	ERDF
ESF+	Interreg	CF
EAFRD-ENVCLIM	EAFRD-ANC	EAFRD-INVEST
EAFRD-KNOW	EAFRD-COOP	EAFRD




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Resources

This section of the Rural Toolkit collects detailed guides on the EU funding opportunities available in 2021-2027 for some specific sectors: broadband, culture, education, energy, environment and tourism. In addition, in this section it is possible to find guidance on the integrated approach to local development, with the final aim of helping rural communities in designing and implementing integrated strategies and projects (e.g. CLLDs and ITIs).

The Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies

The Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies provides valuable knowledge on how to design and implement integrated strategies in areas other than urban. It aims to serve managing authorities of operational programmes, local authorities and as well as other stakeholders involved in the process.

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EU funding for Broadband

This brochure features an overview of the funding and financial tools made available by the European Commission to boost broadband investment in the European Union. The goal is to achieve the ambitious targets to advance digital transformation and implement the vision for a Europe fit for the digital age.

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The CulturEU funding guide

The CulturEU funding guide provides an overview of all EU programmes which are relevant for the cultural and creative stakeholders, including key information on who can apply and how, as well as the kinds of activities supported. The guide covers opportunities linked to the European Commission's flagship programme Creative Europe, which will provide €2.44 billion of support across 2021-2027.

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EU funding opportunities for Education and Training

This guide provides a description of funding programmes and instruments that could support

Launch Event 6 February 2024

Book on your calendar

On line event 10:30 – 12:00
(CET)

Check the page https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/events/rural-toolkit-launch-event-2024-02-06_en for info and updates



Thank you

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